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1995/10/00



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Biographic Sketch

CHINA
General *CHI* Haotian
October 1995

~~(C/NF)~~ NAME: General *Chi* (pronounced chur) Haotian
(6688/3185/3944), People's Liberation Army (PLA).

~~(C/NF)~~ POSITION: Minister of National Defense and State
Councilor since March 1993; member, People's Republic of China
Central Military Commission since March 1993; Vice Chairman of
the Military Commission since September 1995.

~~(C/NF)~~ SIGNIFICANCE: General *Chi* is a national-level leader with
a major role in forming and implementing China's military policies
based on his membership in the Military Commission, Beijing's top
military policymaking body. As Defense Minister, he normally is ~~(C/NF)~~ 1991
the PLA's primary representative in ceremonies hosting foreign
military delegations visiting China. More important, the Defense
Minister traditionally represents China's military in Communist Party Foreign Affairs Leading Group
sessions, Beijing's top foreign policymaking body.

~~(C/NF)~~ POLITICS: As Chief of the General Staff, General *Chi* steered the military through a difficult
period that included the Tiananmen crisis and subsequent political reindoctrination program. He has
been a loyal supporter of Deng Xiaoping's plan for modernizing and regularizing the PLA. He has
extensive military experience as a political commissar.

~~(C/NF)~~ General *Chi* is a member of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee. He was a
representative to the 9th and 11th National Party Congresses and a member of the 13th Central
Committee in 1987. In April 1988, he was elected a member of China's Central Military Commission.
In September 1995, he was named a Vice Chairman of the Military Commission.

~~(C/NF)~~ PERSONAL: General *Chi* was born in Zhaoyuan, Shandong Province, on 22 July 1929.
According to official Chinese news media, he took part in more than
100 battles (probably during the Chinese civil war and the Korean war) and was awarded the title
People's Hero, 3d Class, of East China in 1949. He does not speak English.

~~(C/NF)~~ CAREER:

1944 - Joined the military and assigned to the 8th Route Army.

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General CHI Haotian

- 1947 - Junior officer in the East China Field Army and secretary at battalion headquarters.
- ? - Political instructor of a company in the 3d Field Army.
- ? - Participated in the Laiwu, Menglianggu, Jinan, Huai-Hai, Yangtse Crossing, and Shanghai campaigns.
- 1950 - Participated in the Korean war as a deputy squad leader, a company deputy political instructor, a political instructor, and a battalion political instructor.
- 1955-58 - Upon returning to China, became Director of the Regimental Political Department of the Chinese People's Volunteers.
- 1958-60 - Enrolled at the Nanjing General Advanced Infantry School and then at the Nanjing Military Academy, graduating in 1960.
- ? - Assigned to the 27th Army.
- ? - Regimental political commissar and political commissar of a [redacted] division, [redacted]
- 1973 - Named Beijing Military Region (MR) Deputy Political Commissar, serving under then-Second Political Commissar Qin Jiwei (former Defense Minister).
[redacted]
- 1977 - In May, named deputy editor in chief of the *People's Daily*, [redacted]
[redacted] In November, he became a Deputy Chief of the General Staff (DCOGS), serving under then-Chief of the General Staff (COGS) Deng Xiaoping and then-Assistant Chief of the General Staff Liu Huqing.
- Early 1980s - Selected to serve as Director of the Political Department, PLA General Staff Headquarters, probably between 1982 and 1985. When he gave up his DCOGS portfolio and if or when he served solely as Political Department Director is unclear.
- 1985 - Identified as Political Commissar of the Jinan MR.
- 1987 - Named COGS, November.
- 1988 - After ranks were restored in October, awarded the rank of general.
- 1992 - Reassigned as Defense Minister, November.
- 1995 - Selected as a Vice Chairman of the Military Commission, September.

PREPARED BY: [redacted]

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